

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 13017 071853Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

NEA-10 SCEM-02 DRC-01 /213 W
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R 071820Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5407

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, XF, UK

SUBJECT: UK PRESS COMMENT ON EC-9 DECLARATION ON THE
MIDDLE EAST

REF: BRUSSELS 6275

BEGIN SUMMARY. BRITISH PRESS COMMENT ON THE EC-9
DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN NEGATIVE. IN
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PAGE 02 LONDON 13017 071853Z

EDITORIALS PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 7, "THE TIMES" AND "THE

FINANCIAL TIMES" NOTED THAT A DEGREE OF COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY HAD BEEN ACHIEVED, BUT SAID THAT THE CONCESSIONS MADE TO THE ARABS IN THE DECLARATION WILL MERELY ENCOURAGE THEM TO RAISE THEIR DEMANDS. THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" AND "GUARDIAN" SAID THAT NO REAL SOLIDARITY HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. "THE TIMES" SAID: "FOR THE COMMUNITY TO HAVE REACHED ANY COMMON POLICY AT ALL ON A PROBLEM SO DELICATE AS THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT IS AN ACHIEVEMENT WHICH SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED," YET IT IS DIFFICULT TO GREET THE DECLARATION WITH WHOLEHEARTED ENTHUSIASM. THE PURPOSE OF THE DECLARATION, ACCORDING TO "THE TIMES," WAS TO CONVINCE THE ARABS THAT THE EC AS A WHOLE SHARED THE SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TO THE ARAB CAUSE WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY VOICED BY FRANCE AND BRITAIN. EVEN IF THE DECLARATION SUCCEEDS IN GETTING THE NETHERLANDS OFF THE HOOK, IT WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A "COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION" OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS, ACCORDING TO "THE TIMES." THE ARABS WILL NOT BE APPEASED SO EASILY. ISRAEL WILL NOT TAKE EUROPE'S CONTRIBUTIONS SERIOUSLY WHEN THEIR PRIMARY PURPOSE IS CLEARLY TO SATISFY THE ARABS. AND "WORST OF ALL," THE DECLARATION WILL AGGRAVATE MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US, WHICH IS "RAPIDLY REACHING TRAGIC PROPORTIONS." THE DECLARATION SHOULD HAVE REITERATED MORE EXPLICITLY EUROPE'S APPRECIATION OF ISRAEL'S NEED FOR SECURITY, AND SHOULD HAVE DEALT WITH THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF IMMEDIATE SITUATION.

2. AN EDITORIAL IN "THE FINANCIAL TIMES" SAID THAT "IT IS DIFFICULT TO BLAME THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FOR WANTING TO DEFLECT THE DANGER OF A SERIOUS OIL SHORTAGE. BUT IT IS NOW MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE COMMUNITY TO CLAIM TO HAVE AN IMPARTIAL LINE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AND, IT MAY LEGITIMATELY BE ASKED, HOW MANY MORE CONCESSIONS? IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF THE ARAB OIL STATES DID NOT ASK FOR MORE."

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PAGE 03 LONDON 13017 071853Z

3. THE "TELEGRAPH," IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "9 TIMES ZERO EQUALS ZERO," SAID THAT THE DECLARATION IS "NOTHING MORE THAN A HASTILY COBBLED-UP ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL THE TOTAL LACK OF CONSULTATION BY THE NINE SINCE THE MIDDLE EAST WAR STARTED." THE MINISTERS ARE "OBVIOUSLY IN A MICAWBERISH FRAME OF MIND. THEY HOPE THAT SOMETHING WILL TURN UP WHICH WILL MAKE THE PROBLEM GO AWAY." THE "GUARDIAN'S" LEAD ARTICLE NOTED THAT BRANDT DELIVERED

A STRONG PUBLIC ATTACK AGAINST ARAB TACTICS ON NOVEMBER 6, ONLY HOURS AFTER THE BRUSSELS MEETING. ACCORDING TO THE "GUARDIAN," BRANDT'S STATEMENT SHOWS THAT THE EC DECLARATION REFLECTED A TEMPORARY COALITION OF INTERESTS, BENT ON SAFEGUARDING OIL SUPPLIES, AND DID NOT DEMONSTRATE ANY "NATURAL UNITY" IN EC FOREIGN POLICY.

ANNENBERG

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